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ABSTRACT

The Texas Conference on Libraries and Information Services was one of a series of meetings held throughout the nation to allow the public to identify critical issues for consideration at the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II; Washington, DC, July 9-13, 1991). The 28 resolutions that were produced as a result of these meetings are presented in this report and ranked in priority order. They fall into the three broad categories of literacy, productivity, and democracy--the themes of WHCLIS II. The resolutions were designed to be presented during the conference for inclusion in the national agenda and to be considered for appropriate action on the state and local levels. Concluding the report are the names of the Texas delegates and alternates to WHCLIS II and the planners of the Texas conference. (MAB)

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Resolutions of the Texas Conference on Libraries and Information Services

January 4-5, 1991

TEXAS LIBRARIES
Building Community Partnerships

Texas State Library

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Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building
1201 Brazos

William D. Gooch
Director and Librarian

March 25, 1991

I am pleased to present to you the 28 resolutions passed at the Texas Conference on Libraries and Information Services in Austin on January 4 and 5, 1991.

Citizens, library service organizations, and the state and federal governments have worked together for the past 18 months to identify the most important state and national issues in library and information services. More than 2,300 Texans participated in regional meetings, devoting innumerable hours to the planning of this conference and the development of these resolutions.

I encourage you to read the resolutions on the following pages and discuss your questions, support, or opposition with any of our White House Conference delegates. Keep yourself informed and involved by attending the meetings which will be held during the TLA Annual Conference. Invite one or more delegates to participate in local meetings in your community.

These resolutions are only one step in the improvement of Texas libraries. It is important that we all work together to implement these initiatives and develop concrete, successful programs to better serve the needs of library users.

The Texas Conference on Libraries and Information Services was a great success and the credit goes to all of you who participated on the committees and as delegates and observers. My heartfelt thanks go to each of you. It is because of citizens like you, that we are truly "building community partnerships."

Sincerely,

Wm D Gooch

William D. Gooch
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library

P.O. Box 12927 Austin, Texas 78711-2927 (512) 463-5460 FAX (512) 463-5436

RESOLUTIONS OF THE TEXAS CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Texas Conference on Libraries and Information Services was one of a series of meetings throughout the nation to allow the public to identify critical issues for consideration at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. In a joint resolution in 1988 the U.S. Congress called the White House Conference "to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the nation and their use by the public." (Public Law 100-382)

The Texas State Library selected the Texas Library Association (TLA) to coordinate the White House Conference process in Texas. TLA appointed 22 volunteers to a Steering Committee which considered many suggestions for the conference format and chose to hold regional public forums to allow many individuals to help draft resolutions and elect delegates. Sixty people serving on nine subcommittees completed the Planning Committee, and 21 regional co-chairs coordinated dozens of volunteers to hold 26 regional meetings in the 10 TLA districts.

In September, October, and November 1990, more than 2,300 Texans met at the regional meetings to draft resolutions and elect delegates to the Texas Conference. The 160 delegates to the Texas Conference were broadly representative of the state's demographic characteristics: young, old, urban, suburban, rural, naturalized citizens, disabled, highly educated, recently literate, employed, and unemployed. State legislators, city and county government officials, attorneys, architects, journalists, teachers, students, and those with other important civic and business responsibilities were also represented. The Delegate Selection Committee ensured good representation from the geographic areas and ethnic groups in the state.

The Resolutions Committee edited and combined the 112 resolutions from the regional meetings and distributed the results to the state conference delegates. On the first day of the Texas Conference, three discussion groups (one for each of the three national themes: literacy, productivity, and democracy) revised and refined the resolutions. On the second day, the 160 delegates discussed the resolutions and ranked them in priority order. The Resolutions Committee then edited the final 28 resolutions for style.

The Texas State Library has forwarded these resolutions to the staff of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Texas will be represented at the Washington conference by a delegation of 32 delegates and 8 alternates. During the White House Conference (July 9 to 13, 1991), this delegation will present these resolutions for inclusion in the national agenda. The resolutions will also be considered by the Texas Library Association's committees for appropriate action on the state and local levels.

March 1991

Texas Library Association
3355 Bee Cave Road #603
Austin, Texas 78746

(512) 328-1518

RESOLUTIONS BY DELEGATES
TO THE
TEXAS CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES
JANUARY 4-5, 1991

1. LITERACY

WHEREAS, the nation's economic development depends upon a literate workforce; and

WHEREAS, the nation's productivity depends upon a literate workforce; and

WHEREAS, the nation's democratic process depends upon a literate and informed citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the effort to improve the literacy of Americans is now being carried out by many disparate organizations with scattered funding, and different goals and missions; and

WHEREAS, this uncoordinated effort is inadequate to meet the literacy needs for economic development, productivity, and democracy; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the library community calls for a national policy on literacy and the necessary funding to implement it.**

2. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, decision-making in a democracy requires the fullest and freest exchange of information; and

WHEREAS, it has been public policy of the U.S. government to provide all government publications through a well-established depository library system; and

WHEREAS, free and current availability of information about activities of government should be readily available; and

WHEREAS, continued access to these public resources is vital to the continued productivity of this nation's businesses and industries; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government, through paper reduction measures, has eliminated some publications and reduced the availability of others and has begun publishing materials in formats other than print (i.e., microform, compact disk, and magnetic tape); and

2. Democracy Cont'd

WHEREAS, privatization of government publishing with resulting fees and restriction of access to once-free information limits the rights of citizens to information produced with their tax money; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that distribution of government documents continue to be free to depository libraries; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that Congress shall repeal legislation currently in effect requiring payment over and above the cost of production of government-produced information; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that Congress shall enact no further legislation restricting freedom to acquire and house information; and be it further**

RESOLVED, that depository libraries be funded to provide access to information received in whatever format to be freely available to other libraries on demand and to all citizens through libraries.

3. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, the free exchange of ideas and information is the foundation of a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, democracy demands that there be no compromise of the rights of citizens to choose what they read, see, and hear; and

WHEREAS, library users should be protected from invasion of privacy; and

WHEREAS, the names of individuals using libraries should be confidential; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that censorship be actively resisted; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that all library patron/user records be secure from access by individuals, government agencies, or officials; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that appropriate legislation be enacted.**

4. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, the survival of a democratic society depends upon an educated and informed public; and

WHEREAS, access to information empowers citizens as functioning members of a democratic society; and

4. Democracy Cont'd

WHEREAS, changing technology has resulted in an explosion of information in a wide variety of formats resulting in increased costs, thereby excluding many segments of society; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the federal government develop a national policy supporting equal access to information; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that economic, cultural, physical, and language barriers be removed to allow free and equal access to information, including national conferences, with additional government funding for resources and services.**

5. LITERACY

WHEREAS, funding for all literacy programming is dependent upon special funding that is not consistent or ongoing; and

WHEREAS, libraries operate under a variety of funding authorities; and

WHEREAS, adequate programs cannot be maintained without sufficient funding; and

WHEREAS, literacy services need to be funded from multiple sources, including dedicated funding at the state and local levels; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that a strategy be developed for more stable and consistent funding for library literacy programs from public, private, and corporate sources at the local, state, and federal levels.**

6. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, accessibility of information is necessary for increased productivity and international economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, libraries of all types must take advantage of advances in technology and diversified resources through automation to improve accessibility to information and services; and

WHEREAS, emerging technology allows libraries to exist outside buildings; and

WHEREAS, we recognize a need to encourage sharing of databases, networking, equipment, and personnel among schools, individuals, businesses, and government; and

6. Productivity Cont'd

WHEREAS, funding for the National Research and Education Network (NREN) is currently under deliberation by Congress; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to include provisions for public and school libraries as well as academic and special libraries to access this network; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the state legislature will consider the funding of a state network of publicly funded university libraries called Tex-Share in the 1991 legislature, a network that, if funded, would be expanded to include all publicly funded libraries, thus providing funding to support local, state, and federal networking of libraries that might encourage sharing among the component members of the community; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that the congress support access to and delivery of library and information services to all citizens by the most cost-effective means, which can be met by developing and implementing networking options, particularly the National Research and Education Network (NREN), integration of library services and social services through networking, and that wire transmission fees and postal rates should be established and maintained at a minimal flat level and that access and delivery of these services to populations without library facilities should be provided electronically in cooperation with local communities.**

7. LITERACY

WHEREAS, school, academic, and public libraries provide instruction and materials; and

WHEREAS, school and academic libraries are the core of the local education agencies of which they are a part; and

WHEREAS, public libraries are widely available to the general public as sources of instruction and materials; and

WHEREAS, in federal legislation libraries are not listed as local education agencies; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that Congress amend existing legislation to designate libraries as local education agencies.**

8. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, libraries can best serve the goals of reducing illiteracy, improving productivity, and promoting democracy by sharing resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for multi-type linked systems that would provide all citizens with easily accessible information and services from all resources; and

WHEREAS, continuous funding is needed through legislation for developing and maintaining coalitions among libraries to better serve citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Attorney General has ruled that multi-type library systems are not possible under existing law; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the concept of multi-type library systems is endorsed and the legislature is encouraged to amend the existing laws to permit existing public library systems the option of becoming multi-type; and that the local, state, and federal governments are urged to provide increased funding for resource-sharing and other cooperative programs.**

9. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, there is a lack of qualified librarians in Texas; and

WHEREAS, a certified school librarian is necessary to ensure a continuing flow of information; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the recruitment of qualified people into librarianship be encouraged; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that a uniform system of library instruction be developed and mandated for use in all schools in the state of Texas; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that appropriate legislation be enacted that will fund recruitment of qualified people into librarianship, and will fund a uniform system of library instruction in Texas public schools, and will provide funding for certified librarians in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 to match school accreditation standards with a minimum of one librarian per campus.**

10. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, there exists an increasingly serious shortage of professional library personnel; and

WHEREAS, in order to better serve a diverse population, libraries' professional staffs should reflect that diversity; and

10. Productivity Cont'd

WHEREAS, extensive recruitment and education is needed to secure qualified personnel, therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that it is in the public interest to increase the diversity of library professionals by establishing scholarship and/or loan programs as incentives to enable qualified paraprofessional library staff to pursue a professional education, and therefore be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board encourage library schools to create greater access to professional education by providing satellite programs throughout the state, and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that greater access to professional library education at reasonable cost be available to minority and handicapped students and to individuals in unserved areas.**

11. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, the survival of a democratic society depends upon an educated and informed public; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide access to information that empowers citizens as educated members of a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, changing technology has resulted in an explosion of information in a wide variety of formats resulting in increased costs, thereby excluding many segments of society; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the federal government develop a national policy supporting access to information; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that economic barriers to free and equal access to information and libraries be eliminated or reduced by government entities.**

12. LITERACY

WHEREAS, parents and other caregivers are the most influential role models in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers can positively affect their children's reading habits by their example and by reading to their children; and

12. Literacy Cont'd

WHEREAS, public and school libraries are uniquely suited to encourage family literacy; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that public and school libraries be encouraged through funding and program initiatives to develop family literacy programs.**

13. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, the survival of a democratic society depends upon an educated and informed public; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide access to information which empowers citizens as educated members of a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, democracy is at risk when our libraries are at risk; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that libraries be recommitted to the democratic process and provide resources that are essential for the exercise of responsible citizenship.**

14. LITERACY

WHEREAS, the vitality and the survival of a productive, democratic, multicultural American society require a literate citizenry capable of reading, writing, communicating, and calculating at a level to allow self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide access to literacy programs appropriate to the diverse needs, ages, cultures, and life styles of the citizenry; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for greater cooperation and coordination among public and private sector literacy providers; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that partnerships for providing programs be formed among agencies at federal, state, and local levels; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that libraries will take leadership in initiating, coordinating, promoting, and supporting literacy efforts.**

15. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, libraries have traditionally operated with funding levels which prevented full accomplishment of their missions; and

WHEREAS, traditional funding for libraries has not been equitably distributed among different types of libraries and in rural and urban localities; and

15. Productivity Cont'd

WHEREAS, reliable financial support is essential to the continuation of existing library programs and to the development of new ones; and

WHEREAS, new technologies offer the opportunity for all citizens to gain access to information they need to enhance their productivity and awareness of issues affecting the political and economic health of the nation; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that state, and federal government funding stimulate local funding so that adequate and continued funding for libraries of all kinds is assured and that library services continue to be freely available to all; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that funding be made available to libraries of all types to foster the use of technology; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that by 1995 all types of publicly supported libraries be partially funded by a dedicated state-wide tax to underwrite collection, staff, and staff development; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that legislation be enacted to create local library taxing districts.**

16. LITERACY

WHEREAS, there is a high rate of illiteracy among the inmates of all correctional institutions; and

WHEREAS, there is a correlation between crime and illiteracy; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that literacy programs be a top priority in all correctional institutions; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that appropriate materials for such programs be provided through correctional institutional libraries in a variety of formats and that sufficient library staff be employed.**

17. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that the United States must increase its productivity to be able to compete with advanced industrialized nations; and

WHEREAS, government and industry projections indicate that the nation will need a highly educated and trainable population to increase productivity; and

7. Productivity Cont'd

WHEREAS, a diverse population requires a wide variety of educational and training opportunities beyond the scope of the traditional educational system; and

WHEREAS, libraries of all types possess the potential for affecting the productivity of our nation's work force; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to make the public more aware of these services and resources available through libraries; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that libraries should provide increased access to career information and guidance, as well as to lifelong learning programs; should market an image that attracts all segments of the population; and should promote outreach activities.**

18. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, libraries are providers of information to all segments of our diverse population; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has been assisting libraries in this role by providing a reduced rate for mailing books and other library materials mailed either to or from libraries; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the reduced rate would increase the cost of delivery of information; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that Congress should support and continue to fund a reduced library postal rate so that libraries can continue to provide access to the information and resources needed by all segments of our society.**

19. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, there is a lack of adequate funding for libraries; and

WHEREAS, libraries must meet the needs of unserved and poorly-served areas and populations; and

WHEREAS, many libraries cannot apply for special federal grants, because they cannot provide required monetary matching funds; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that federal grant-matching requirements be more flexible to allow inclusion of in-kind services.**

20. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, a democracy will flourish only where its people have access to the recorded knowledge stored and made available through many formats; and

WHEREAS, if free people do not preserve and celebrate humanity's memory, others may end up limiting and controlling it; and

WHEREAS, millions of books and other paper documentation are physically deteriorating; and

WHEREAS, a Texas State Library/Texas Library Association Preservation Task Force was appointed in December 1987 to assess the preservation needs of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Texas State Library/Texas Library Association Preservation Task Force has presented its final report to the Librarian of the Texas State Library; and

WHEREAS, the said final report contains recommendations and an action agenda for initiating a preservation process for the libraries, archives, and museums in Texas; and

WHEREAS, a critical step in initiating this process is the Texas State Library's acceptance of a leadership role; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the Texas Conference on Libraries and Information Services mandate that the Texas State Library accept the designation as the focal point for statewide planning and for the implementation of a cooperative preservation initiative; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that the Texas Library Association's Legislative Committee place the preservation issues on the legislative platform; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that the Texas State Library establish an office of preservation in order to plan, administer, and pursue funding for a basic statewide preservation program to ensure the continuance of a democratic government vis-a-vis the preservation of recorded knowledge.**

21. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, providing opportunities to obtain full and appropriate information is essential to democracy in a multi-ethnic culture; and

WHEREAS, libraries are a source of much of this information; and

21. Democracy Cont'd

WHEREAS, materials for this purpose are needed in the languages spoken in communities; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that libraries be funded to provide materials appropriate for and about diverse cultures.**

22. LITERACY

WHEREAS, a growing segment of the population cannot read for life survival and life success; and

WHEREAS, lack of public awareness of the extent of illiteracy contributes to the problem of illiteracy; and

WHEREAS, the public should be mobilized to contribute to the solution of the problem of illiteracy; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that libraries, through internal and community promotions, will communicate the need for literacy programs, will communicate their ability and willingness to meet that need, and will encourage participation through effective use of multimedia formats.**

23. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, the United States is an information society in which access to information affects productivity; and

WHEREAS, libraries of all types possess the potential for affecting the productivity of our nation's work force; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the President of the United States direct the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) to research, establish, and publicize the effectiveness of libraries and to explore new ways of defining and understanding intellectual productivity.**

24. LITERACY

WHEREAS, current technology can support and extend literacy instruction; and

WHEREAS, the quantity and quality of literacy materials in all formats is inadequate or nonexistent; therefore be it

24. Literacy Cont'd

***RESOLVED*, that the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services encourage the United States government to offer incentives for increased development and production of quality literacy materials.**

25. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, people need equal access to information in publicly supported libraries; and

WHEREAS, people, as taxpayers, own the resources of these libraries, therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that the people of Texas have a right to avail themselves of these resources; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that TCLIS urge the Texas State Legislature to adopt legislation and provide adequate funding for cooperative programs ensuring statewide public access to the resources purchased by the taxpayers of Texas.**

26. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, libraries endeavor to provide equal access to information to all members of their communities on all subjects and on all points of view; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that federal legislation be enacted that will encourage publishers to maintain inventories, expand initial printings, and increase publication of new authors and specialized subjects.**

27. DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) "has endorsed, encouraged, and tracked the significant progress made toward implementing" resolutions concerning access and the preservation of library materials that were passed at the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and

WHEREAS, NCLIS has developed broad, long-range objectives in the preservation, conservation, and restoration area; and

WHEREAS, these objectives include the preservation of humanity's memory in order to make intelligent decisions to preserve freedom; therefore be it

27. Democracy Cont'd

***RESOLVED*, that the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science be commended for its leadership role in promoting the preservation and conservation of library materials and the continuance of democracy; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that NCLIS be encouraged to continue its role of leadership in the preservation and conservation of library materials.**

28. PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, quality health care to all citizens is an important national and human priority; and

WHEREAS, quality health care is affected by rising costs and inadequate current diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, days lost in the workplace are a major source of inefficiency and loss of productivity in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, current reliable and relevant health care information is increasingly necessary by primary health care professionals for diagnosis and treatment; therefore be it

***RESOLVED*, that legislation be passed and appropriate funding be provided to achieve the aims of primary care information services as outlined in the DeBakey Report, which addresses medical library information systems.**

TEXAS DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
As of February 20, 1991

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Texas State Library
Library Development Division
Box 12927
Austin, TX 78711

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